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SOURCE

Chung-kuo Lin-yeh, No 2, 1953

ADOPTION OF SCULET FORESTRY TETHNIQUES IN THE NORTHEAST ADMINISTRATIVE AREA OF CHINA

/Summary: Soviet specialists have been making improvements in China's forestry and timber industry since 1949. They have proposed new methods of conservation, reforestation, and forest survey and various techniques to aid transportation by water and railway.

Conservation in Cutting

Since 1949, when USSR experts first came to the Northeast, they have demanded a system of economy in timber distribution, and have introduced a progressive, rational, organized approach to the use of forests.

First, the Soviet specialists suggested the reduction of centimeters to 20 centimeters and stopped the rejection of any tree tops 6 centimeters in diameter and over. As a result of work during the winter of 1949, one model worker reduced the height of stumps to 5 centimeters and another invented a new method of undercutting which greatly influenced the workers and overcame their conservatism in cutting methods. From 1949 to the present, these new methods have increased national production of timber by nearly one million cubic meters.

Workers' Safety

The Soviet specialists' rational approach to felling trees and handling timber saved many lives. Occupational deaths in 1948 amounted to .16 percent of the people employed in felling trees, in 1949 to .13 percent and 1950 .07 percent.

Reforestation

15

Soviet specialists also proposed a program of forest conservation and testoration. Therefore, they planned to loave from 10 to 20 good seed trees per hertare when cutting down a forest. These seed trees are to be protected and other trees allowed to grow to maturity before tutting begins again.

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Water Transport

USSR specialists had to persuate the Coinese that it was betestary and proper to try to control nature and to use it to advantage. For example, in transporting timber by water, the Soviet technique is to be ak the ice on rivers before the natural melting time in order to be ready to benefit from the spring rains carrying logs downstream. This ind away with the problem of whether there was too little or too much water, and in 1950 and 1951 losses due to damage in river transport were reduced from 10 percent of total losses due to damage in river transport great savings. These important results were all due to advanced Soviet experience and methods such as "breaking the ice before the river opens," "establishing individual and group responsibility," "putting up floating river barriers instead of permanent locks," "limiting the amount of timber transported at one time," "keeping a production progress thart," etc.

Rail Transport

As for the shipping of times by rail, during the several years of Soviet assistance, the previous poor confittion of locomotives, flattans and regulations have been corrected, schedules have been established for trains, and regulations have been made in regard to other matters. Railways are guaranteed repair, support, and inspection. Day and might, trains are carrying out the movement to "load cars to full caracity, increase the number of axles per train over that previously assigned to each locomotive, and increase the distance traveled each day to 300 kilometers" thereby completely reveloping the potential strangth of the logging railways. Taking the test year for transportation on logging railways under the Manchukho government as 100, the index for 1950 was 100, 1951, 207; and the first 9 months of 1952, 301. At present, the Northeast's logging railways are the only important mechanical means of transporting timber.

Technical Improvements

With Soviet aid, the building materials industries, canceled the old supply system and put in a system of control based on business enterprise, taking building materials factories as the unstance of social particles accounting. Moreover, they changed the irrational organization of labor and set up a quota system for parting through a wage program based on introducing production, thereby intreasing production and quality. If 1989 to taken as 100, then the 1951 production index was 227. Each haw teams mill production, was three times as great in 1981 as in 1989, the rate of production of finished materials increasing from 70 percent to 61% percent /of the raw materials? Moreover, the experts process a method for the rational storing of lumber which prevented the usual milder and spoilage. Very recently, the specialists, in apportance with Soviet experience, helped establish a self-operating lumber mill.

Forest Surveying

From the standpoint of forestric univer work, the specialist, also made valuable proposals. Under the USOR soft survey method, which at present has been extended over all the Northeast section, the rate of survey work is six times as great as under the old system. In 1981, the Northeast survey area covered 330,000 hectares and saved 600 to 700 million, yuan in expenses. In 1952, when the teams gradually became more facilist with the grid system of inspecting one area at a time, they surveyed twis as much as in 1981. It was originally calculated that the forestry survey profess in the Northeast would take 25 years to colve, but putting this grid plan into operation has brought the time for poscible completion down to 5 years. In other words, it is a mistake to credit the growth of the Northeast timber inquestry to natural unaited expansion.

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